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Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Development of good-neighbourly relations among Balkan States

Maintenance of international security

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: integration of the economies in transition into the world economy

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

Letter dated 5 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write in my capacity as representative of the country holding the Presidency for the current year of the Central European Initiative (CEI) composed of 17 countries, namely, Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I have been requested by the member States of CEI to seek your assistance in having the final document of the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Member States of CEI, adopted on 25 November 2000 in Budapest (see annex) circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 29, 66, 67, 94 (b) and 170.

(*Signed*) André **Erdös**
Ambassador

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Annex to the letter dated 5 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Member States of the Central European Initiative

Budapest, 25 November 2000

Final Document

1. The Heads of Government of the Member States of the Central European Initiative (CEI) held their annual Summit meeting in Budapest on 25 November 2000. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary, holding the CEI Presidency for the current year.

2. The meeting was attended by the Heads of Government or their representatives of Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Ukraine. The Secretary General of the Council of the European Union/High representative for the Common foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the Chairperson-in-Office of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (CoE), the Executive Secretary of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the President of the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Chairman-in-Office of the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative, Secretary General of the Black Sea Economic Co-operation (BSEC), the President of the Danube Commission, the chairman-in-Office of the South East European Co-operation Process (SEECP), Chairman-in-Office of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI, the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact (SP) and representatives of the European Commission, the EIB and SECI in their capacity as special guests.

On behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, invited as guest of the Chairman-in-Office, the foreign minister of the FRY participated in the meeting representing his country after its formal accession to the CEI.

The President of the Republic of Montenegro (FRY) attended the meeting as guest of the Chairman-in-Office.

The meeting was also attended by the representative of the Parliamentary Assembly of the CEI, the representative of the Central European Chambers of Commerce Initiative (CECCI), the Director General of the CEI-Executive Secretariat (CEI-ES) and the Head of the Secretariat for CEI Projects.

Political Part

3. The Heads of Government warmly welcomed the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as a new member of the CEI.

The Heads of Government highly appreciated the readiness of the FRY to actively contribute to the regional co-operation efforts of the CEI and will include the FRY fully into the activities of the CEI bodies.

They expressed their confidence that the democratic changes that have taken place in the FRY will be irreversible and that the FRY will implement those political, economic and social changes that will lead to the rule of law and to the respect of human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities.

Those changes will pave the way to a normalisation of the relations of the FRY with the countries of the region and to positive developments in South Eastern Europe. This will constitute a new challenge for the CEI strategy of cohesion and solidarity in Europe.

The co-operation established on the expert level between the CEI and representatives of Montenegro (FRY) shall continue.

4. The Heads of Government reiterated that enhanced assistance granted to CEI countries in special need shall continue to be regarded a priority for action within the framework of the CEI and in its co-operation with other European and international organisations.

In this context, they highly valued the results of the recent informal Summit of the South Eastern Europe Co-operation Process (SEECP), held in Skopje, and the strategic commitments solemnly confirmed in yesterday's Zagreb Summit by the EU with regard to the countries of South Eastern Europe within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

5. The Heads of Government welcomed the Final Declaration adopted by the Zagreb Summit held on 24 November 2000. They stressed the importance of this meeting between the European Union and the countries included in the Stabilisation and Association Process, which enhances the stability and economic prosperity throughout the region. In a positively altered political environment, the Zagreb Summit confirmed the European perspective for the CEI members included in the Stabilisation and Association Process (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, FRY).

6. The Heads of Government expressed appreciation of the efforts of the international civilian and military peacekeeping forces in Kosovo directed at stabilising the situation and the accomplishments they have secured. They also called on all parties concerned to implement fully and consistently the UN Security Council Resolution 1244. They attributed importance to the successful conduct of the municipal elections in Kosovo and to the implementation of the outcome. They pledged their support to the activity that UNMIK and KFOR are carrying out to help put in place the structures of government, public administration, the administration of justice and law-enforcement, and restore the economy. The Heads of Government expressed their hope that in a near future those who did not participate in the vote will be included in the ongoing process in Kosovo. They attributed

special attention to the need for full observance of human rights of all citizens living in Kosovo.

The European integration and the EU enlargement process

7. The Heads of Government reiterated the fundamental importance of the European integration process and the EU enlargement for all CEI Member States. As regards the process of EU enlargement the Heads of Government welcomed the Enlargement Strategy Paper published by the European Commission on 8 November 2000 proposing a roadmap for finalising the accession negotiations. They expressed their conviction that the EU Member States would endorse these proposals contained in the Enlargement Strategy Paper on the occasion of the Nice European Council to be held in December 2000. They showed satisfaction with the determination of the Member States of the EU to welcome the first new members in the Union by the end of 2002 in accordance with the principle of differentiation and individual achievements.

8. The Heads of Government welcomed the promotion of a Stabilisation and Association Process for countries of South Eastern Europe by the European Union which corresponds fully to the CEI strategy of cohesion and solidarity in Europe.

They appreciated and supported the conclusions of the Zagreb Summit held between the European Union and the Stabilisation and Association Process countries on 24 November 2000 which will move this process further for all countries concerned, opening clear perspectives towards full integration into the European structures.

The Heads of Government complimented Macedonia on the completion of negotiations and initialling of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the EU.

They greeted the official launching of the negotiations for the conclusion of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Croatia, bringing Croatia closer to the status of potential candidate for EU membership.

Appreciating the continuation of the domestic reforms in Albania, the further consolidation of the rule of law and, welcoming the successful holding of free, fair and democratic local elections, the Heads of Government expressed their confidence that negotiations for a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Albania will be opened as soon as possible.

They encouraged Bosnia and Herzegovina to continue its efforts on the basis of the progress made for complying with the conditions laid down by the EU for the opening of negotiations for the conclusion of a Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

The Heads of Government expressed their expectations that the EU will define as soon as possible the conditions for the inclusion of the FRY into the Stabilisation and Association Process.

9. The Heads of Government welcomed the Joint Statement adopted at the EU-Ukraine Summit in Paris on 15 September 2000 that marked an important stage in the relations between the European Union and Ukraine. They took note especially that the EU would examine the possibility of supporting the implementation of actions under the national Programme of Ukraine's Integration into the European Union, as well as the EU readiness to discuss regularly its enlargement within the Partnership and Co-operation Agreement to keep Ukraine informed of the latest developments with the joint aim to mobilise the potential that

EU enlargement would offer for increasing trade between the enlarged European Union and Ukraine.

10. The Heads of Government expressed their endeavour to fully support within the CEI the process of European integration and of EU enlargement by fostering consultation and co-operation between and among its Member States, and to strengthen in particular co-operation among border regions.

Regional co-operation

11. The Heads of Government considered regional cross-border co-operation within the CEI as a means to promote people to people contacts, stability, security and prosperity. These initiatives can also contribute to the preparations for EU membership of candidate countries and to enhancing economic and social cohesion in both the present and an enlarged Union. The Heads of Government drew the attention to the importance of cross-border co-operation in and outside the CEI region, with a special regard to different forms of regional co-operation.

The Heads of Government welcomed the discussions about regional co-operation in the CEI Summit Economic Forum and in this connection they endorsed the idea that the Committee of National Co-ordinators establishes an ad hoc working body on interregional and cross-border co-operation.

12. The Heads of Government recommend that the areas of environmental protection and management of environmental disasters should receive maximum attention from member countries. The countries concerned should apply the provisions of bilateral treaties and pertinent international conventions and agreements they are parties to. In this context it is recalled that the CEI Co-operation Agreement on the Forecast Prevention and Mitigation of Natural and Technological Disasters remains open for accession.

13. The Heads of Government welcomed the announcement by the President of Ukraine to close the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant on 15 December 2000, noting the importance of this decision for strengthening the safety of all Europeans. They called on the CEI Member States to contribute to the Chernobyl Shelter Fund and decommissioning procedures for Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. They noted the success of the Chernobyl Shelter Fund Pledging Conference which has been held in Berlin on 5 July 2000.

14. The Heads of Government emphasised their support for efforts aimed at the re-establishment of free navigation on the Danube River as soon as possible, which constitutes an essential element for the economic revival of the region. They welcomed the activity of the Danube Commission and the decision of the European Council and the European Parliament to cover the greatest share of clearance costs. They welcomed and supported the proposal of a CEI financial contribution to the same end, which will be the first action of this type of the Central European Initiative.

15. The Heads of Government emphasised their support for the efforts of the Republic of Moldova and the International Community aimed at achieving the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict on the basis of sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of

Moldova and called for implementation of the process of withdrawal of Russian troops from the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the decision of the OSCE Istanbul Summit.

16. The Heads of Government recognised the comprehensive role the OSCE plays in enhancing stability and security in Europe and reaffirmed the readiness of the CEI to develop further the co-operation with the OSCE in conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation, particularly in easing the tensions in South Eastern Europe.

The Heads of Government commended the work done by Austria as the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE.

17. The Heads of Government took note of the steps undertaken by the authorities of Belarus in order to ensure free, fair and democratic parliamentary elections in October 2000. The Heads of Government called on the respective authorities of Belarus to undertake further steps aimed at democratisation of the Belarussian society. They expressed their wish to see further progress by Belarus in those efforts.

18. The Heads of Government welcomed the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina undertaken in the process of joining the Council of Europe. They expressed the hope that Bosnia and Herzegovina soon becomes member of this organisation.

CEI and Stability Pact

19. The Heads of Government welcomed the results achieved so far by the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The CEI Member States remain interested in actively contributing to transform this area into a region of stability. They welcomed the admission of the FRY into the Stability Pact as full and equal partner on the occasion of the special meeting of the Regional Table, held in Bucharest on 26 October.

The Heads of Government reiterated their support for the request of the Republic of Moldova to be included as a full participant in the Stability Pact process. They also expressed support for the interest shown by the Czech Republic, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Ukraine to be recognised as full participants of the Stability Pact process.

20. The Heads of Government highly appreciated the continuing efforts accomplished in the framework of the Szeged Process initiated by the Hungarian Government. It was devoted since its origin to the maintenance of dialogue between the International Community and the representatives of the democratic forces in the FRY and made a valuable contribution to the democratisation process in this country.

They also appreciated the contributions of other CEI member countries to this endeavour.

21. The Heads of Government took note with appreciation that the CEI is supporting and complementing the Stability Pact's activities, in particular the implementation of the quick-start projects, with its relevant structures in the field of minorities, gender issues, human dimension, human resource development and training, youth affairs, parliamentary co-operation, environment and transport, SME development and investment promotion, tourism, civil protection and combating organised crime. Special attention is given to the field of cultural co-operation within the framework of the CEI.

They encouraged the CEI Advisory Board of Experts for the Stability Pact, co-chaired by Albania and Macedonia, to continue its task of identifying priority projects, particularly of the most affected countries, for implementation within the framework of the CEI.

22. The Heads of Government took note with appreciation of the results of the Stability Pact efforts in the areas covered by the three Working Tables which showed progress regarding the implementation of the quick-start projects. They appealed to the international community to maintain the proven approach of solidarity with the countries of the region in view of assisting them in their efforts for economic and social progress and reforms.

CEI co-operation

23. The Heads of Government emphasised the paramount importance of the reinforcement of the economic co-operation among CEI countries. They considered that continuous efforts in the member countries are necessary to promote stability and sustained economic development in the region. With regard to the countries of South Eastern Europe they recognised that the European Union's recent new approaches towards these countries together with their continuous efforts will facilitate fundamental reforms in these countries leading to substantial investment opportunities.

They acknowledged that governments can assist each other and that private sector representatives can contribute their experiences to these endeavours. They agreed that the introduction of new instruments of the information society and their full application should receive highest priority. They welcomed the proposal to establish an investment facilitation programme co-ordinated by the CEI, for the purpose of transferring know-how and best practice from one CEI country to another in the areas of reforms, business environment and SME development.

The Heads of Government expressed satisfaction for the confirmation of the substantial value of the relationship maintained since 1992 between the CEI and the EBRD.

The Heads of Government also welcomed the progress made on CEI projects by the Secretariat for CEI Projects and the contributions made by using the CEI Fund at the EBRD provided by the Italian Government, in particular the CEI co-financing of the Albanian road section of Corridor 8, the launching of a CEI Microfinancing Project in Albania in co-operation with the UN/ECE and the World Bank and the start of the CEI Business Advisory Services programme in Croatia, the technical co-operation with the Romanian railways, the Agricultural Wholesale Markets Programme and the sponsoring of a variety of CEI international events.

24. The Heads of Government welcomed sub-regional programmes and meetings among their countries as a suitable complementary activity to CEI regional co-operation. They stressed the importance of forms of multilateral regional co-operation, which offer to the participating countries a forum where priorities of the countries involved can be harmonised.

25. Furthermore, the Heads of Government welcomed numerous initiatives launched and sponsored by individual Member States as well as co-sponsored by the CEI Fund provided by the Italian government. In particular they welcomed the wide range of international events organised within the framework of the CEI for 2000, comprising workshops, seminars, training courses, summer camps, meetings and conferences in Albania, Belarus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Slovenia. They also welcomed the

intensification of the training programme in agriculture and in business management for Belarus, the international conference on the role and the institution of the Ombudsman, both organised by the Czech Republic, the seminar on the information society organised by Hungary, the provision of lighting and safety equipment to the Sarajevo airport, and progress with the realisation of six wholesale markets in Croatia.

They noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the CEI Plan of Action 2000-2001 by the Working Group on Science and Technology and they particularly encouraged further development of the CERGOP, UNIGRACE as well as geological projects.

26. The Heads of Government expressed support for the continuation of the dialogue and initiation of enhanced co-operation between the CEI and the Council of Europe. The co-operation should cover in particular the fields of human rights and protection of national minorities, culture, youth affairs, social cohesion and cross-border co-operation, areas in which the Council of Europe can provide expertise and recognised standards.

27. The Heads of Government expressed their appreciation for the ongoing co-operation activities with international organisations, in particular the progress made with the UN/ECE in joint activities, including investment promotion and support to the CEI Summit Economic Forum, the co-operation with OECD on industrial districts and women entrepreneurship, and co-operation with EU/PHARE for the CEI Business Advisory Services in Croatia.

28. The Heads of Government welcomed the co-operation of Parliaments of CEI Member States and took note of the results of the meeting of Speakers of Parliament in Warsaw/Gdansk on 24-26 March 2000 and of the CEI Parliamentary Assembly in Budapest, 26-28 October 2000.

29. The Heads of Government expressed their satisfaction with the CEI Summit Economic Forum organised this year in Budapest, which promoted – first and foremost – the development of the economic and trade co-operation in the CEI region with particular regard to Euroregions and to cross-border co-operation between regional and local authorities.

They expressed their satisfaction with the formula, which combined the Forum with the most important event of the CEI, the Summit of the Heads of Government of the CEI Member States. The Heads of Government mandated the CNC to consider the establishment of a mechanism for following-up the Forum results.

30. The Heads of Government expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Hungary for the excellent organisation of the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CEI Member States in Budapest.